

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

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6. (currently amended): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

 a magnetic tape for storing data;

 tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound;

 upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels, said lower flange having a radially inner portion; and

 upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said lower half respectively having ribs at its front end in such a manner that said magnetic tape is restricted in height by said lower flange and the ribs,

 wherein a size relationship among the magnetic tape cassettes is such that the magnetic tape cassettes have a substantially similar vertical length while a horizontal length varies ~~may~~ varies among the magnetic tape cassettes, and

wherein a ~~when the horizontal length varies among the magnetic tape cassettes, the~~
difference between the height of the radially inner portion and the height of the ribs is the same
for each of the varying size magnetic tape cassettes.

7. (currently amended): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 6, wherein
at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape
running area of the tape running openings, and

wherein: ~~when the horizontal length varies among the magnetic tape cassettes,~~
distances between positioning marks are the same for each of the varying size
magnetic tape cassettes,
distances between the pair of guide members vary among the magnetic tape
cassettes, and

inclinations defined by tape running paths that are defined by connecting the
bosses and said guide members are the same for each of the varying size magnetic tape cassettes.

8. (currently amended): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 6, wherein
at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape
running area of the tape running openings, and

wherein ~~when the horizontal length varies among the magnetic tape cassettes,~~
distances between positioning marks are the same for each of the varying size
magnetic tape cassettes,

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widths of the pair of tape running openings in a horizontal direction of said cassettes are the same for each of the varying size magnetic tape cassettes, and distances between the pair of guide members for restricting tape running areas of said tape running openings at inner sides of the cassettes vary among the magnetic tape cassettes.

9. (Previously Presented): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

10. (Previously Presented): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

11. (Previously Presented): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

12. (currently amended): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;

tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound; upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels; and

upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said upper and lower halves defining a pair of tape running openings through which said magnetic tape runs, and at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings,

wherein a size relationship among the magnetic tape cassettes is such that horizontal lengths of the magnetic tape cassettes ~~may~~ vary among the magnetic tape cassettes, and

wherein ~~when the horizontal length varies among the magnetic tape cassettes,~~

distances between positioning marks are the same for each of varying size magnetic tape cassettes,

distances between the pair of guide members vary among the magnetic tape cassettes, and

inclinations defined by tape running paths that are defined by connecting the bosses and said guide members are the same for each of varying size magnetic tape cassettes.

13. (currently amended): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;

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tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound; upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels; and upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said upper and lower halves defining a pair of tape running openings through which said magnetic tape runs, and at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings, wherein ~~when~~ the horizontal length varies among the magnetic tape cassettes, distances between positioning marks are the same for each of the varying size magnetic tape cassettes, widths of the pair of tape running openings in a horizontal direction of said cassettes are the same for each of the varying size magnetic tape cassettes, and distances between the pair of guide members for restricting tape running areas of said tape running openings at inner sides of the cassettes vary among the magnetic tape cassettes.

14. (canceled)

15. (Withdrawn): A process for producing guide rollers in a magnetic tape cassette, wherein the guide rollers are rotatably supported ~~near an inlet and an outlet of a magnetic tape and adapted to guide drawing-out and taking-up of said magnetic tape, the process comprising:~~

molding each of said guide rollers as a resin molded article having its cylindrical part in a barrel-like shape while a parting line is positioned between molds for injection molding at the largest diameter portion of said guide roller; and
removing a molding burr projected from said parting line.

16. (Withdrawn): A process for producing guide rollers in a magnetic tape cassette wherein said guide rollers are rotatably supported near an inlet and an outlet of a magnetic tape and adapted to guide drawn-out and take-up of said magnetic tape, the process comprising:

molding each of said guide rollers as a resin molded article having its cylindrical part in a barrel-like shape while a parting line is positioned between molds for injection molding at both ends of said guide roller, and

removing a molding burr projected from said parting line.

17. (New): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;
tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound;
upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels, said lower flange having a radially inner portion; and

upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said lower half respectively having ribs at its front end in such a manner that said magnetic tape is restricted in height by said lower flange and the ribs,

wherein a vertical height of a first cassette is substantially equal to a vertical height of at least one additional cassette,

wherein a horizontal length of the first cassette is different than the horizontal length of the at least one additional cassette, and

wherein a difference between a height of a radially inner portion of the first cassette and a height of a rib of the first cassette is substantially equal to a difference between a height of a radially inner portion of the at least one additional cassette and a height of a rib of the at least one additional cassette.

18. (new): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings, and

wherein:

distances between positioning marks are the same for the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette,

distances between the pair of guide members vary among the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette, and

inclinations defined by tape running paths that are defined by connecting the bosses and said guide members are the same for the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette.

19. (new): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings, and

wherein:

distances between positioning marks are the same for the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette,

widths of the pair of tape running openings in a horizontal direction of said cassettes are the same for the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette, and

distances between the pair of guide members for restricting tape running areas of said tape running openings at inner sides of the cassettes vary among the first cassette and the at least one additional cassette.

20. (new): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 17, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

21. (new): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

22. (new): The magnetic tape cassettes according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes include at least two of S, M, L and LL cassettes.

23. (new): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;
tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound;
upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels; and
upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said upper and lower halves defining a pair of tape running openings through which said magnetic tape runs, and at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings,

wherein a size relationship among the magnetic tape cassettes is such that horizontal lengths of a first magnetic tape cassette varies from at least one additional magnetic tape cassette, and

wherein:

distances between positioning marks are the same for the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette,

distances between the pair of guide members vary among the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette, and

inclinations defined by tape running paths that are defined by connecting the bosses and said guide members are the same for the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette.

24. (new): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;

tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound;

upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels; and

upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said upper and lower halves defining a pair of tape running openings through which said magnetic tape runs, and at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings,

wherein the horizontal length varies among a first magnetic tape cassette and at least one additional magnetic tape cassette,

distances between positioning marks are the same for the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette,

widths of the pair of tape running openings in a horizontal direction of said cassettes are the same for the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette, and

distances between the pair of guide members for restricting tape running areas of said tape running openings at inner sides of the cassettes vary among the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette.

25. (new): Magnetic tape cassettes adapted to be operated in a recording and reproducing apparatus which can commonly operate a plurality of sizes of the magnetic tape cassettes, each of the magnetic tape cassettes comprising:

a magnetic tape for storing data;

tape reels respectively provided with bosses around which the magnetic tape is wound;

upper and lower flanges for restricting vertical movement of the magnetic tape as it is wound around the tape reels; and

upper and lower halves for rotatably accommodating said tape reels, said upper and lower halves defining a pair of tape running openings through which said magnetic tape runs, and at least one of the upper and lower halves having a pair of guide members for defining tape running area of the tape running openings,

wherein the horizontal length varies among a first magnetic tape cassette and at least one additional magnetic tape cassette,

widths of the pair of tape running openings in a horizontal direction of said cassettes are the same for each of the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette, and

distances between the pair of guide members for restricting tape running areas of said tape running openings at inner sides of the cassettes vary among the first magnetic tape cassette and the at least one additional magnetic tape cassette.
